

11-23-1969

## Notes: Various Themes: The Day of Remembrance (John 16:4) (Fragments), 1969

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DATE 11/23/69 OCCASION \_\_\_\_\_THEME The Day of Remembrance

John 16, 4: But these things I have told you,  
that when the time ~~shall~~ come, ye may remember.

1. We have met here this morning for our annual day of Remembrance - the one day of the Christ-year when we are most conscious of the passing of Time and the nearness of Eternity - not in terms of vast abstraction but in the accounts of living and dying - in terms of those who have gone before us - and <sup>those</sup> who will come after us.
2. This is a good and holy and profitable thing - as we go through life - no matter how young we are - we remember those who are ~~away~~ (already) on the other side - perhaps father, mother, grandfather, grandmother - perhaps even a friend from school or camp - many of us have quite a crowd waiting for us on the battlements of heaven - and surely - at least one day a year we should think of them.
3. There is another reason for remembering them this morning - as always in a time of transition, decay and death there is an <sup>almost</sup> morbid interest in the Unknown and <sup>the</sup> Unknown - in trying to discover what really lies on the other side - and so we have medium - ouija boards - astrology - psychic religion - all <sup>manner</sup> of attempts to pierce the Veil - <sup>we must</sup> ~~to~~ learn what is going on in another world

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A. Now this is a repetition of a moral essentially -  
men do these things because they are unhappy -  
 in sorrow, pain or evil all around them - they  
 want to know the cause. E. O'Neill says that in  
 "hazarn haughd" - he picks up the story of  
 hazarn - reunited - at the point where the  
 Eucript drops it - hazarn comes back  
from the other side - what has he learned?

The answer is in the title of the play "hazarn  
 haughd" - He returns from beyond the great - wonders  
 all over the <sup>Rome</sup> Empire and laughs - laughs at all the  
 little things <sup>only</sup> which men toil & labor & weep -  
 laughs at our little hopes, our little victories, our  
 little ambitions - laughs finally at Death itself - in  
 a climactic scene hazarn at the end of

Caligula, the mad Emperor - they begin to talk -

the <sup>mad</sup> man & the happy man - finally there  
 is a rift of light in the darkness of Caligula's mind:

He speaks: "I am sick, hazarn, sick of cruelty and  
 lust and human flesh and all the imbecilities &  
 pleasure - the endless antics of help-will-a child."

Then in a mounting agony "I would be clean! If  
 I could only laugh your laughter, hazarn! That  
 would purify my heart. If I only did not fear  
 men and despise them! If I could only believe -  
 believe in them - in life - in myself - then I might  
 laugh your laughter - the damn comes down again and

hazarn bows  
 and puts him  
 on the head -  
 pins a'chil

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7. It is in this spirit - the spirit of Victory, of Triump over Death that we remember today the saints who have gone before us - they are <sup>they are</sup> all right - sorrow over - labor ended - Jordan past - <sup>at mid</sup>
8. Must confess this meditation has a P.S. - with apparently no connection between what has been said - we are gathering today the dedication of six formerly houses - long awaited - known from us the hearty fun of old houses and fire on cold winter nights -
9. And yet - using our fraternalism and sororism as an example - there are some connections - close and even startling - with our meditation the morning - first - our fraternalism and sororism are united - not an organization but as individuals - they share the immortality with all the rest of us - blendingly - you are immortal - there was a time when you were not - that time will never come again - come hell or heaven - we, students, faculty, all of us - have more time to go than our brief 70 or 80 years -
10. So in these <sup>houses</sup> new houses God and a U. following God - will not simply ask you to be obedient to certain rules - ~~He will~~ be imparting and imparting intention in what kind of person you are - are we people of a particular sort? This is where the work, etc
11. In all my years here - I have seen a fasting or severity come face to face with death three times - suddenly confronted with the border or blessing of immortality - it was interesting to note



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how these events separated the men from the boys  
and the women from the girls - all I can say  
now - repeat the words of our text: "When the  
time comes, remember" - the voice of Him -

12. The last thing way out in left field - is it too  
much to hope and believe, to think and to  
ask that these men become, in their own way, become  
+ little cells in the City of God - not in any  
+ pietistic shallow way - having a Bible in the  
+ house - but quietly, persistently, in a loaf 20"  
+ Canterbury way - being a part of the City of God - the  
+ Holy Christian Church - absorbed in a world of  
mortality? - "Reverend" Goethe "Wilhelm Meister" etc  
hope - hope - "When the time comes - remember"

13. That last - perhaps all this boils down very  
simply to our Adamic friendship with J.C. -  
highly exalted and yet so near that we can  
see him just ahead of us <sup>before</sup> then too in a  
moment of quiet and remembrance we may hear  
the voice (Stephen)